

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAB-01 SAM-01 CCO-00 OPR-02 /062 W
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O R 171307Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1186

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 6353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, LE, SY, PLO, US, JO, IS, SA

SUBJECT: LEFTIST PAPER ALLEGES IMPENDING AMERICAN-INSPIRED INVASION
OF WEST BEIRUT

1. UNDTYLCMNNER HEADLINE WHICH SCRE KTTOTDQPDETAILS AND DATE
OF LAND APD SEA ATTACK ON WEST BEIRUT", LEADING LEFTIST AND
PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" ALLEGES IN JULY 17 ISSUE THAT IT HAS
RECEIVED "VERY SERIOUS INFORMATION" ABOUT "LAST STAGE OF
PLOT THAT AMERICA IS IMPLEMENTING IN LEBANON THROUGH SYRIAN,
ISOLATIONIST, AND ISRAELI TOOLS."

2. ACCORDING TO PAPER, THIS STAGE INVOLVES MILITARY OPERATION
DESIGNED TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND LEBANESE
LEFT, IMPOSE SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON SERVING LEBANESE RIGHTIST
AND ARAB REACTIONARY INTERESTS, AND SOLVE MIDEAST CRISIS
BY CREATING WEST BANK MINI-STATE AS PART OF UNITED ARABKINGDOM.

3. PAPER ALLEGES THAT MILITARY OPERATION HAS IN PRINCIPLE
BEEN SET FOR EVENING OF JULY 20, DATE IT DESCRIBES (ERRONEOUSLY) AS
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"ONLY ONE DAY" AFTER THINNING OF AMEMBASSY STAFF AND DEPARTURE OF

AMCITS.

4. ACCORDING TO PAPER, OPERATION WILL CONSIST OF: (A) RIGHTIST NAVAL LANDING AT BEIRUT PORT; (B) ARTILLERY AND ROCKET ATTACK ON MINET EL-HOSN/AIN MREISSE/BAIN MILITAIRE SECTOR TO NEUTRALIZE AROILLERY POSITIONS; (C) SYRIAN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT IN RAMLAT AL-BAIDA/OUZAI SECTOR; (D) SIXTH FLEET NAVAL BOMBARDMENT AND BLOCKADE TO SUPPORT LANDINGS AND PREVENT SOVIET NAVAL INTERVENTION; (E) SIMULTANEOUS MILITARY OPERATIONS IN EAST BEIRUT TO TIGHTEN NOOSE AROUND WEST BEIRUT AND PREVENT USE OF AIRPORT BY LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN FORCES; (F) RIGHTIST/SYRIAN ATTACK ON LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN FORCES IN METN REGION; (G) CIA EFFORTS TO KEEP PREPARATIONS FOR OPERATION SECRET IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

5. ON POLITICAL LEVEL, PAPER ALLEGES THAT PLAN REFLECTS AMERICAN EFFORTS TO SET UP PALESTINIAN STATE SUBSERVIENT TO JORDAN BY ARRANGING PRELIMINARY SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RECONCILIATION THROUGH SAUDIS. PAPER SEES SAUDI MOVES AS DESIGNED TO PAINT LEBANESE CRISIS AS PURELY LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND TO SPLIT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FROM LEBANESE LEFT.

6. CIA, FOR ITS PART, IS ALLEGED TO BE WORKING TO ACHIEVE: (A) JORDANIAN DOMINATION OF PALESTINIANS NOW LIVING ON EAST AND WEST BANKS; (B) DEFEAT OF ANY ARAB MOVES AGAINST PRESIDENT FRANJIEH; (C) PREVENTION OF ANY ARAB MOVES TO BLOCK PLANNED MILITARY OPERATION; (D) INTENSIFICATION OF CIA SURVEILLANCE IN LEBANON, SYRIA, AND JORDAN TO FOIL ANY PLOT AGAINST SYRIAN REGIME.

7. SYRIA, FINALLY, IS ALLEGED TO BE PLANNING TO PROVOKE TENSION ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER IN ORDER TO USE IT AS PRETEXT TO OCCUPY SOUTH, THUS "OBTAINING SPEEDY SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST CRISIS BEFORE GENEVA TALKS" (SIC).

8. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE CRYSTALLIZES ALL THE FEAR AND PARANOIA BEING FELT BY PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND LEBANESE LEFT AS THEIR POSITION IN WEST BEIRUT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTHERN SEACOAST DETERIORATES. IT MAKES ESPECIALLY INTERESTING READING IN CONTEXT OF USG EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE DEPARTURE OF AMCITS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS ON JULY 20.
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